



# SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY

Winter 2010

**One rider, one horse,  
one athletic team**

**Lights, camera,  
action... hope**

Faithville develops new  
television program  
aimed at grandparents  
and grandchildren

**The Nisei farm camps of  
Southwestern Ontario:**

An Essex County connection to the  
wartime experience of Japanese-Canadians

**Features:** All About Books • A Taste of Essex County • How It's Made



# SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY

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# Editor's Note

By the time this magazine makes its way into your hands, the first snowy flakes of winter will have flown through Essex County skies. The sights and sounds of the holiday season will pervade our thoughts, and our landscape will have shifted away from the warm red, orange and brown tones of autumn.

As I write this in early November, the outside temperature is a balmy 16 degrees. It makes me want to be outside too – enjoying the last vestiges of summer, feeling the sun's warmth on my face, and smelling the earthiness of decaying leaves. It's my favourite time of year.

Sometimes it takes a while of a thing to create an appreciation of it. Until I moved to St. John's, Newfoundland, in the late 1980s I had no appreciation of Essex County weather. I didn't realize that 16 degrees in early November is a gift from Mother Nature, or that winter weather could last for more than three months – four months tops.

In that first year, I learned to knit – less out of interest, more out of necessity. The damp cold that comes with proximity to the Atlantic Ocean is a force to be reckoned with – both inside and out. A heavy snowfall can close the province down one day, turn to slush the next, and freeze into treacherous sheets of ice by the third. If you don't have a wood stove or fireplace for backup heat – and we didn't – you are fairly vulnerable when the power goes out.

One winter was so bad for snowfall that we could barely find our Ford Tempo each morning. We were fortunate to live beside an empty lot where we dumped all the excess snow. Others were less fortunate. When the City of St. John's decreed that residents could no longer shovel the snow onto the roads (where, the theory went, it would have a better chance of melting or compressing onto the roadway), some people had to wheel it through their houses, shovelling it into wheelbarrows that they would guide from their front doors to their tiny backyards. The colourful saltbox houses that populate the old streets of St. John's are marvelous to behold, but they also pose some interesting wintertime challenges for their occupants.

Another winter actually failed to end – or summer failed to materialize. In the

spring of 1991, a large iceberg took up residence at the mouth of St. John's Harbour, reducing the temperature for the entire summer by more than 10 degrees Celsius. When the average daytime high lingers around 12-15 degrees Celsius for an entire summer season, it's really hard to enjoy the place you live. And, if you've been spoiled by the weather of Essex County, you might be inclined to whine about it. It's inconceivable to someone raised on summer heat and humidity that an entire season could simply pass you by without so much as a wink. But it did.

It's been 17 years since our last winter in Newfoundland and I have yet to stop appreciating Essex County winters. They're mercifully short, even when they feel like they're never going to end. The snowfall is generally manageable (with a snowblower and three strapping lads to guide it). And you rarely feel like it's so bad that you need to own mukluks and a parka – indeed, many of us wear our running shoes all winter long.

Enjoy the winter. Trust me... it'll be short!

*Laurie Brett*

Publisher & Editor


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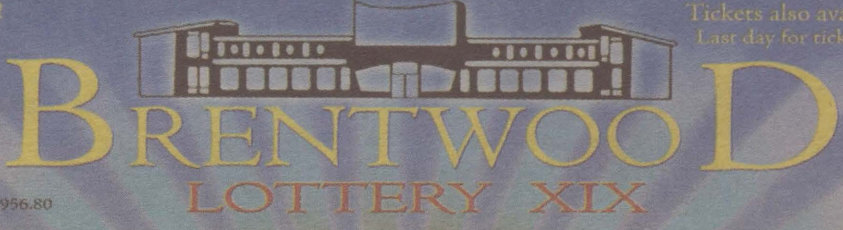
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# Head, heart, hands and health

## 4-H: Essex County's 'learn to do by doing' clubs

By Andy Comber



**A** Canadian soldier opens a Christmas card. A young boy is thankful for his knitted hat, his ears warm against a winter wind. Farm animals are taken in hand, rewarding applause given at a country fair. Badges of achievement are displayed in bright colours. History is recorded, re-enacted. Art decorates a hall. Glee and groans greet the splatter of a paint ball. A kitchen fills with the warm aroma of freshly baked cookies.

These varied descriptions are connected by a common thread – “an organization of leaders building leaders” – the 4-H.

There are millions of 4-H members around the world, thousands in Ontario, and hundreds here in Essex County. From town and country, youth aged 9 to 21 pledge their Head, Heart, Hands and Health – the 4-Hs – as members of community-based clubs. The 4-H motto is “learn to do by doing,” says Brenda Anger, president of the Essex County 4-H Leaders Association.

The Anger family personifies the spirit of 4-H, with memberships bridging three generations. Brenda grew up on a dairy farm in the Sparta area of Elgin County and joined the East Elgin dairy club. At that time, a decorative spoon was the reward for each project achieved.

Brenda carried her 4-H leadership

skills into the Junior Farmers Association. She was president of that group when she married Jay Anger in 1964. The 4-H is very much a community and family organization, Anger says.

“When my boys, Brad and Donald, were old enough, they were in the dairy and beef clubs,” Brenda says. “I got involved all over again as a 4-H leader.”

“Then my grandchildren came along, and I got into it again,” Brenda says, naming off her six grandchildren – Maggie, the oldest at 17, Jenny, Emma, Abby, Dawson and Matthew, the youngest at 12. All are involved in a wide variety of 4-H clubs and activities.

“It really is a family tradition,” Brenda says. “But it’s not just for farm kids, not anymore. It is rural and urban youth. We have more and more town and city members.”

The clubs are drawn into the spotlight at country fairs. Achievement Days are held for various 4-H clubs at the Comber, Leamington and Harrow Fairs, where support for 4-H youth is always expressed as “the future of agriculture.”

Fair exhibits are rich with a wide variety of entries from 4-H members and their clubs – everything from artwork, sewing and baking to crops and farm animals.

At 14 years old, Emma Anger, a grade 9 student at Harrow High, is your



typical teenager. She loves the Internet and technology, but she cannot get enough of 4-H. She is a member of about 10 clubs, some of them unique, like the spice club.

"I want to be a veterinarian," she says. "I love the animals."

Emma says 4-H is rewarding in many ways.

"It teaches you a lot of life's lessons," she says. "You learn skills that are useful through your entire life."

Brenda says employers recognize 4-H involvement on a resume as a strength. Employers know the program builds character and confidence, and teaches leadership and problem-solving skills.

Many of the historic clubs remain, but new and different 4-H clubs are emerging.

Thirteen-year-old Dawson Anger has shown swine, dairy and beef cattle at the fairs. But he also belongs to the plowing club and the paintball club.

Dawson says you have to have confidence to manage large animals. Many animals can sense fear in their handlers. This past summer he showed and auctioned a steer that weighed 10 times his 105 pounds.

"You have to be confident. Hold the halter tight," Dawson says. "If you panic, you're going to be sent flying."

To some people, the new paintball club may seem a bit odd for 4-H. But there is merit to the program, Dawson says.

"It teaches team work. It teaches you to be responsible. There is no place for goofing around."

Volunteers are the lifeblood of 4-H, Brenda says. The organization has a volunteer recruitment and screening process in place, designed to help protect the youth, as well as the adult volunteers. The screening ensures there is a safe environment and an appropriate match between volunteers and tasks.

Essex resident Mary Mayville is an 11-year volunteer. She has been a leader with a number of 4-H clubs, including at one time a drama club. Her Christmas Club 4-H kids have made Christmas cards for Canadian troops in Afghanistan, and her knitting club donates handmade hats to the Coats for Kids program, providing winter wear for needy children.

"Community involvement is an important part of the 4-H," Mayville says.

There seems to be a renewed interest in 4-H. The variety of programs, and the development of programs that might better attract urban children, are a big factor, she says.

The 4-H has a long and established history. It is celebrating 75 years in Essex County this year. Nationally, the 4-H will celebrate 100 years in 2013. The national 4-H council has launched a new logo contest and an e-history project in honour of that milestone.

With a five-year goal of signing 10,000 members and 3,000 volunteers into the Ontario 4-H program, the starting age has been lowered to nine. The provincial organization has also launched a pilot program in six communities. The "Clover Bud" program for 6- to 8-year-olds, allows younger siblings of current members to join sooner.

The Essex County 4-H will hold an awards and sign-up night at the Essex Civic Centre on Jan. 13. The time is to be announced. Everyone is welcome.

For more information on the local 4-H program, membership and volunteer opportunities, call Brenda Anger at 519-733-2883, or Rochelle Bequette, secretary, at 519-730-1224.




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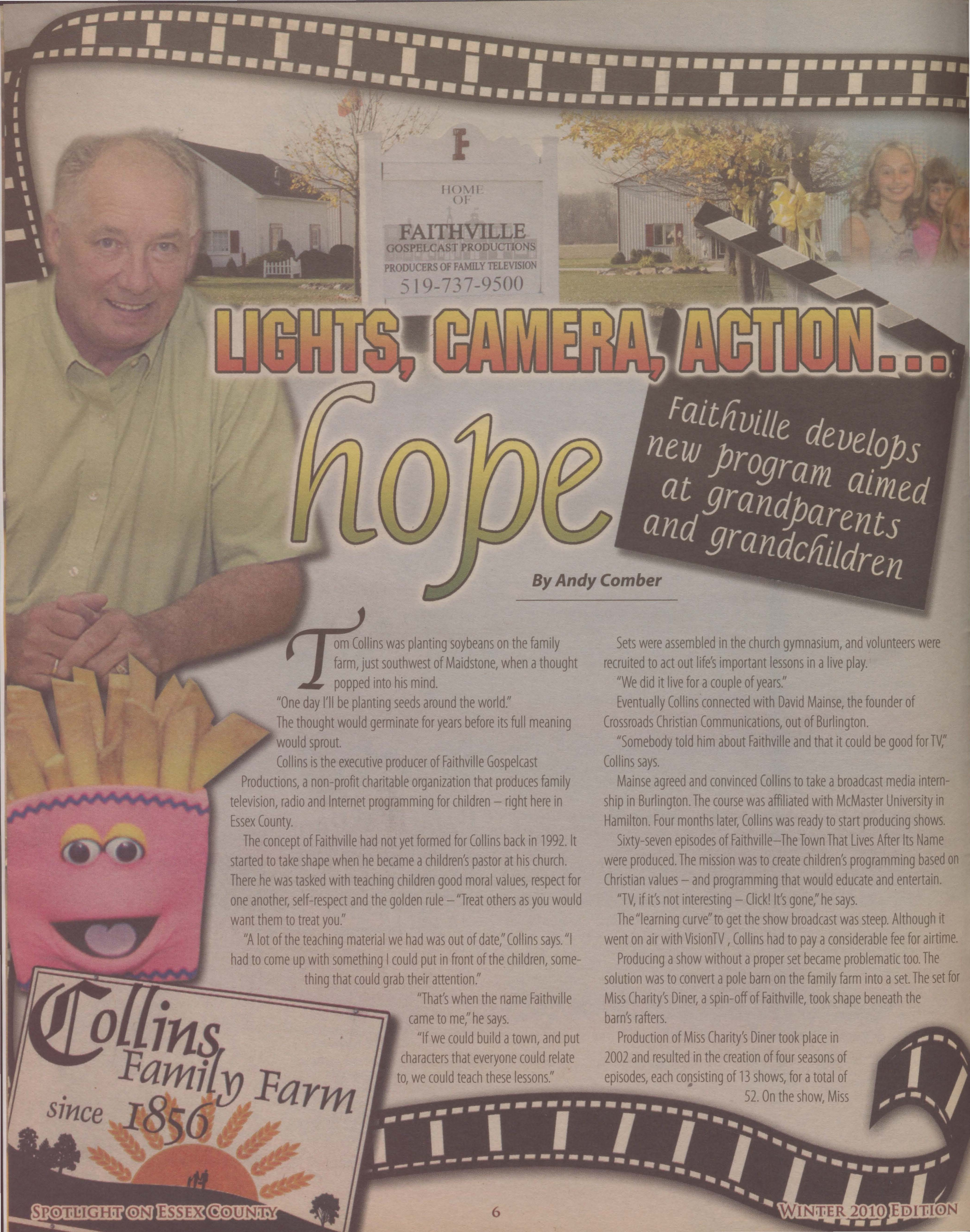
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# LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION...

## hope

*Faithville develops  
new program aimed  
at grandparents  
and grandchildren*

**By Andy Comber**

Tom Collins was planting soybeans on the family farm, just southwest of Maidstone, when a thought popped into his mind.

"One day I'll be planting seeds around the world." The thought would germinate for years before its full meaning would sprout.

Collins is the executive producer of Faithville Gospelcast Productions, a non-profit charitable organization that produces family television, radio and Internet programming for children — right here in Essex County.

The concept of Faithville had not yet formed for Collins back in 1992. It started to take shape when he became a children's pastor at his church. There he was tasked with teaching children good moral values, respect for one another, self-respect and the golden rule — "Treat others as you would want them to treat you."

"A lot of the teaching material we had was out of date," Collins says. "I had to come up with something I could put in front of the children, something that could grab their attention."

"That's when the name Faithville came to me," he says.

"If we could build a town, and put characters that everyone could relate to, we could teach these lessons."

Sets were assembled in the church gymnasium, and volunteers were recruited to act out life's important lessons in a live play.

"We did it live for a couple of years."

Eventually Collins connected with David Mainse, the founder of Crossroads Christian Communications, out of Burlington.

"Somebody told him about Faithville and that it could be good for TV," Collins says.

Mainse agreed and convinced Collins to take a broadcast media internship in Burlington. The course was affiliated with McMaster University in Hamilton. Four months later, Collins was ready to start producing shows.

Sixty-seven episodes of Faithville—The Town That Lives After Its Name were produced. The mission was to create children's programming based on Christian values — and programming that would educate and entertain.

"TV, if it's not interesting — Click! It's gone," he says.

The "learning curve" to get the show broadcast was steep. Although it went on air with VisionTV, Collins had to pay a considerable fee for airtime.

Producing a show without a proper set became problematic too. The solution was to convert a pole barn on the family farm into a set. The set for Miss Charity's Diner, a spin-off of Faithville, took shape beneath the barn's rafters.

Production of Miss Charity's Diner took place in 2002 and resulted in the creation of four seasons of episodes, each consisting of 13 shows, for a total of 52. On the show, Miss

**Collins**  
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Charity gives advice to the kids that visit the diner, with each episode dealing with a particular life lesson — friendship, dealing with bullies, avoiding gossip, and a multitude of other lessons. People and puppets play the characters.

Collins says it is no longer necessary to pay for airtime, and the programs are increasingly in greater demand. Many Christian broadcasting networks realized they had very little or no quality programming for children. Miss Charity's Diner filled a gap.

Today, episodes can be viewed over the Internet. You can even watch Miss Charity on your cell phone, Collins says.

Faithville programming reaches 600,000 viewers from the Trinity Broadcasting Network alone. It is a tedious task to "babysit" the use of the program on all the various networks, Collins says. "It never ends."

The Miss Charity shows are gradually being translated into several different languages, including Arabic. But it is a costly process. Sponsors are always needed and donations are always welcomed.

Professionally done, the shows are voiced over with the new language. Faithville programs are being broadcast worldwide on some 14 networks and 7 satellites.

It's been a few decades since Collins first thought about planting seeds around the world, but the significance of that thought has stuck with him.

"It was a calling," he says. "Here I am, here is Faithville, planting seeds around the world. I guess what we do here is giving hope — seeds of hope."

Collins says he gets calls and messages from peo-

ple who have been touched by a Faithville production.

"We are helping people," Collins says. "The message does not change. We must treat people the same way we would like to be treated. We want kids to see themselves as important — to know that God has a plan for each of us."

With Miss Charity's Diner on the air, Faithville Productions started receiving hundreds of calls and letters from grandparents.

"They told us they are raising their grandchildren, or taking on the responsibility of spiritually guiding their grandchildren."

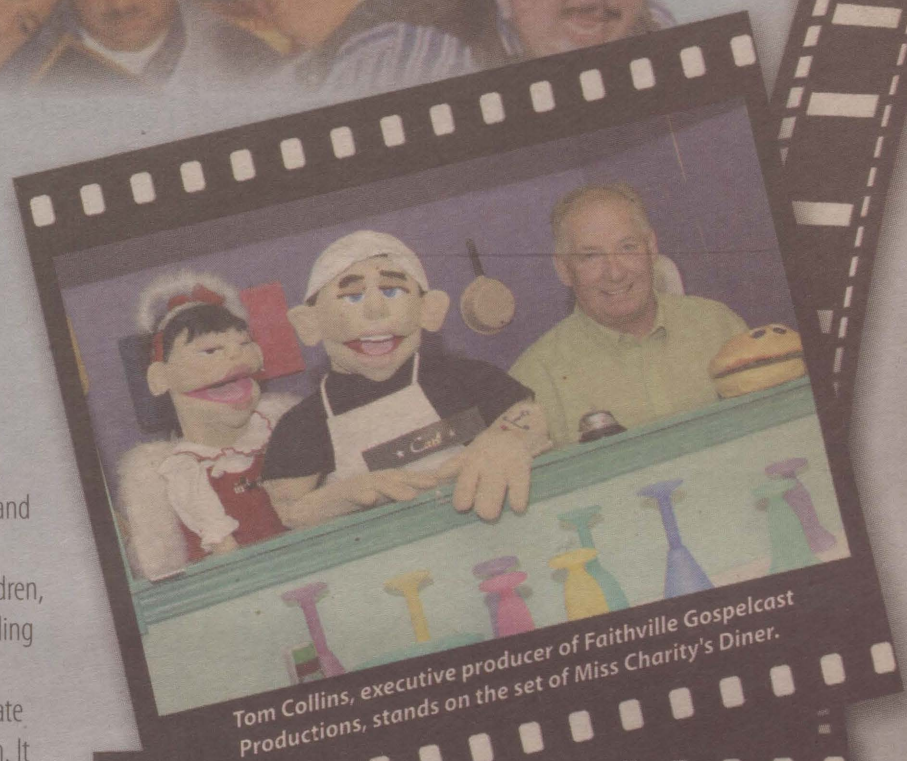
An idea for a new program began to germinate and a new set has been created in the pole barn. It depicts the home of Tim and Maggie, a couple tasked with the job of raising their daughter's two children. Episodes of *The Years of Excellence - Bridging the Generations* will chronicle the lessons learned by young and old.

"Both generations will see how their problems are much the same — just the age is different."

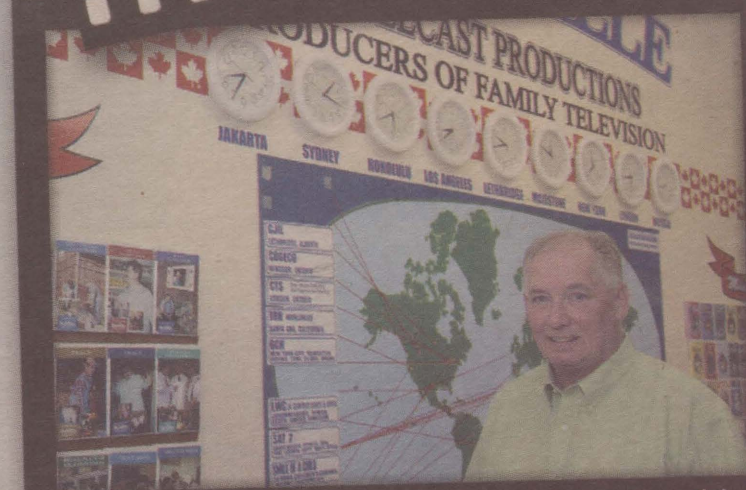
Collins says the greatest asset to Faithville, like any ministry or charitable organization, is its volunteers.

"Some volunteers are gold. They have the heart for it — the heart to help people."

For more information on Faithville Gospelcast Productions, visit their website at [www.faithville.com](http://www.faithville.com) or call 519-737-9500.



Tom Collins, executive producer of Faithville Gospelcast Productions, stands on the set of Miss Charity's Diner.



Clocks at the studio show the time in different countries around the world where Faithville Gospelcast Productions' television programs are being shown.

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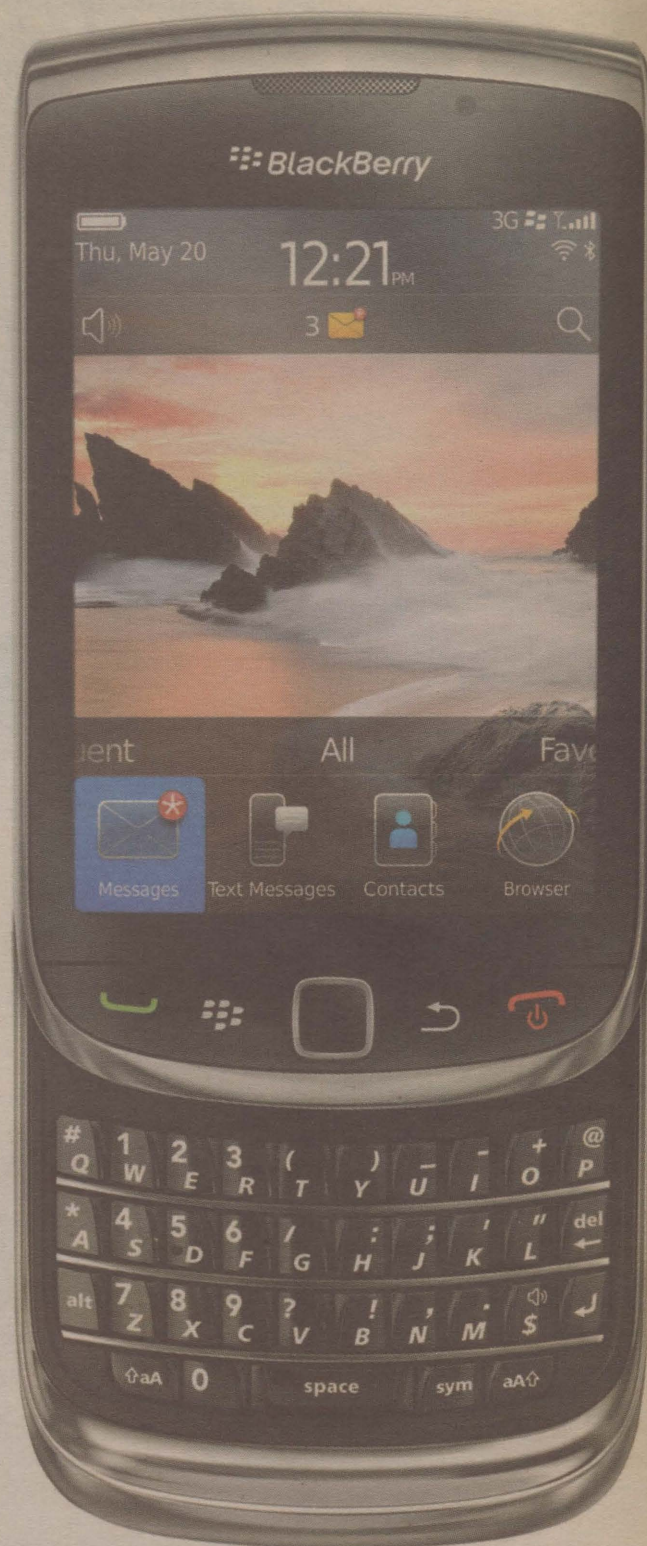
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At 18 years of age, Yon Shimizu was one of the youngest men to work on the Ontario farm camps during WWII.

# The Nisei farm camps of Southwestern Ontario:

## An Essex County connection to the wartime experience of Japanese-Canadians

By Art Rhyno

Yon Shimizu smiles when asked about a photo of a young man peering out over rows of sugar beets. He remembers the feeling he was trying to convey when the photograph was taken on a hot day in 1942. "You would look at an endless field and you would wonder if the work would ever end."

The journey to the farm fields of Ontario, for Shimizu and for several hundred

other young Japanese-Canadian men, would begin on February 24, 1942 when the government of William Lyon Mackenzie King approved a measure to evacuate persons of Japanese ancestry from the coastal areas of British Columbia. Pressure had been building for this action against the Japanese community in B.C. since the bombing of Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941.

There had been a history of discrimination against immigrants from many communities up to that point in Canada, but the Japanese were viewed with heightened suspicion. Wartime portrayals of the Japanese

*After the bombing of Pearl Harbour, restrictions soon multiplied for Japanese-Canadians in British Columbia.*

often evoked images of sinister combatants with unsavoury tendencies, which would feed a fear that the Japanese-Canadian community might be a source of anti-war activity.

As a result of Mackenzie King's War Measures Act, Shimizu and an older brother boarded a train on May 11, 1942, traveling with a group of young men from B.C. to Schreiber, a small community in northern Ontario. The family was already acquainted with hard times. Shimizu's father had died in 1941 after struggling to operate the family's rice goods and specialty food business. One of Shimizu's brothers had shifted the family business into a trucking distribution operation but the van for the new venture was confiscated when the government took possession of Japanese-Canadian property. "Going to Ontario seemed like a good idea at the time," remembers Shimizu. "There were no opportunities left on the West Coast for young Japanese men." His mother and younger siblings stayed behind in an internment camp in the B.C. interior.

### From British Columbia to Ontario

There was still snow on the ground when Shimizu arrived in Schreiber, a location purposely selected as remote enough to keep second-generation Japanese Canadians away from "Nationals", who it was felt might unduly influence their opinion against the war effort. The Japanese term for the second generation of a family is Nisei (pronounced nee-say), and Schreiber was to be the dispersion point for Nisei in Ontario. The physical labour of young men was also needed for the construction through the area of the Trans-Canada highway.

With an acute shortage of farm labour in 1942, Mackenzie King's government granted Ontario \$100,000 to assist in recruiting and placing farmer labourers. This effort led to an arrangement where Nisei males between 18 and 25 years of age were offered the prevailing rate of 25 cents an hour. Living costs were to be deducted from their earnings, and the placement was to be for the duration of the war. All levels of government were particularly interested in supporting the sugar beet harvest that supplied badly needed sugar for the war effort. The sugar beet, a labour-intensive crop, would determine the flow of Nisei towards Southwestern Ontario where sugar beet operations were concentrated.

Farmers were generally far more eager to encourage Nisei participation in the harvest than most other residents of Southwestern Ontario. Motions were passed at town councils in Chatham and Essex objecting to the plan, but the harvest schedule was far too pressing for any extensive consultations and education efforts to take

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AUSTIN C. TAYLOR,  
Chairman,  
British Columbia Security Commission



## Petition Presented by Essex Branch of Canadian Legion

Monday, September 14, 1942

"It was a military necessity to remove the Japanese from coastal areas. It is also a military necessity that they be confined to their domicile on the farms to which they were allocated and cease to be a menace to our war effort.

The Jap may be an innocent and loyal Canadian, but remember that our men in uniform are staking their lives to defeat Japan.

It is not in harmony to have our citizens and Japanese associating with one another. We don't want any of our boys getting into trouble. We don't want innocent people to suffer and we don't want to give the Japanese reasons for reprisals against the Canadians they hold.

The Canadian Legion which has over 200,000 members passed a resolution at the Dominion Convention in Winnipeg, 1942, that all Japanese should be put in concentration camps.

We, Ex-Service Men of Essex, strongly protest against their coming into the Town of Essex."

Source: Essex Free Press, Sept. 25, 1942

26,000 individuals, mostly women, young adults and children. The OFSF appealed to patriotism and, according to *The Essex Free Press* account of the meeting, Mr. McLaren emphasized that the Nisei were "good, law-abiding citizens and real workers." He told council that the "farmers need the help and the country and Empire need the food products."

Wartime sentiments would turn out to be a double-edged sword for the camp that was established at North Ridge, at the point where the Cameron Sideroad now meets Highway 3. The June 12, 1942 edition of *The Essex Free Press* described the arrival of the first 20 Nisei labourers, along with a report from Gosfield North Council, which passed a motion protesting the Japanese presence. A constable from the RCMP was assigned to the camp, and two Great War veterans from Gosfield North were given the task of assisting with security. By September, a petition had been circulated by the Essex branch of the Canadian Legion objecting to the camp and it was presented to Essex Town Council at a special session, where it was approved and sent on to the Commissioner of the RCMP and the OFSF.

The objections were unsuccessful, and Essex would become one of the locations where many of the Nisei experienced farming and small-town Ontario for the first time. Mary Taylor of Gosfield North saw the new arrivals through young eyes. "I remember driving by the large house as a young girl of 11, and being afraid because of all the stories and fear in the area during the war."

Dr. Stephanie Bangarth, a historian who has researched and written extensively on the treatment of Japanese-Canadians during WWII, describes how attitudes began to change as small town Ontario started to learn more about the Nisei. "Many people were surprised that the workers spoke English, were polite, and were typically well educated," she says.

Church groups and farmers were supportive of the newly arrived labour. Although the Nisei had been rarely exposed to field-work in the past, the farmers were impressed by their work ethic. Writing in *The New Canadian*, the only Japanese-Canadian newspaper allowed to publish at the time, one of the Essex workers described how "the ability and efficiency of the 41 boys stationed at this Ontario farm service force camp has been tested and recognized to such an extent that many private farmers and agricultural con-

place. Nevertheless, the Director of the Ontario Farm Services Force (OFSF), Angus McLaren, made some efforts to address the concerns of the selected areas, appearing in front of Essex town council on May 7, 1942.

The OFSF would have been well known to town council. The organization had been created in 1941 to supply farmers with volunteers, and it had by that point registered about

cerns are vying with one another to secure our help."

"We were greeted with some suspicion and antipathy upon our arrival," the writer acknowledged. "It was not long before this attitude was corrected and all the boys are now working in good health and good spirits."

Yon Shimizu echoes this account with his own experience. Shimizu and his brother were placed in a camp in Glencoe and found that "there were never any problems after people got to know us." In fact, Essex would be the scene of the only confrontation involving the Nisei, a confusing incident where a sailor in uniform started an argument with a group of Japanese-Canadians in a local restaurant. The sailor and his friend accused the men of not

## 300 JAPS ARE SELECTED

Three hundred Japanese-Canadians at Schreiber, Ont., have been selected as suitable for work in Southwestern Ontario sugar beet fields and will be brought to the nine labour camps about June 1<sup>st</sup>, as blocking of beets becomes general.

At a conference between field men of the Canada and Dominion Sugar Company and officials of the Ontario Sugar Beet Producers Association Saturday, it was anticipated that enough labour is available at present to block the occasional crops of early beets late this week and early next week.

Bulk of the work will be done from May 26<sup>th</sup> to the first week in June and it is expected the Japanese will be here about the end of the month.

As soon as the beet work is through the Japs will be available to farmers by the day for other work such as picking fruit, tomatoes, haying, harvesting and general farm work.

## JAP FARM WORKERS ARRIVE

Twenty Japanese farm laborers arrived at Tilbury on Friday, and were immediately taken to the Workman farm (the Wm. Switzer farm) at North Ridge.

Like others brought into Kent County recently from road camps at Schreiber, Ont., the young men will be employed on beet farms until the hoeing and thinning, after which they will be available to farmers for other types of work, until beets are ready to harvest.

Constable J.H. Baxter, R.C.M.P. Windsor, is on duty at the camp, and will be assisted by John Fridd and D.A. Rupert, Great War veterans and residents of Gosfield North.

paying for a game of pool a few nights before. The men, in fact, were not the ones who had played pool on the evening in question, but somehow a report was circulated around town that a man "in uniform" had been abused by the camp workers after the sailor and his friend left the scene.

A large crowd gathered in front of the restaurant and three provincial constables and seven mounties were called in to assist the local police. The law enforcement officials were able to find the sailor who told the assembled group that the tales of abuse were rumours and had nothing to do with the incident over the pool game. The crowd dispersed when the president of the Legion promised to call a special meeting to investigate the incident. The meeting was held the next night and the RCMP representative promised to station an officer in town on any evenings when the Nisei would be present. The number of Nisei allowed in town at any one time was to be limited, and they were not to be allowed in town at all on Saturday evenings.

## After the War

Despite the restaurant incident, the Essex camp would see the longest operation of any of the Ontario farm sites. In 1944, *The New Canadian* reported that Essex was the only camp still being maintained, running "for the last three years with Japanese labour."

When the war ended, many of the Nisei would stay in Ontario. Some of the family names from the Essex camp would be present when the Essex Niseis Organization was voted into existence on August 8, 1947, just weeks after a picnic of all Japanese families in Essex County was held in Leamington. A Mennonite Recreational Association team was badly trounced in a game of softball, yielding to the Nisei team by a score of 34-4.

## Sugar Beet Farmers Deserve Praise

Essex Free Press, November 3, 1944

Chatham, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - During the period in which the South Western Ontario farmer has been hard pressed for labour, besieged with demands to produce more butter, more pork, more oil-bearing foods - more of most everything he can grow - it is to his great credit that he has not entirely by-passed sugar beets in favour of other crops of lower labour requirements.

For the sugar beet is a crop of high labour demands - no one can dispute that. Experiments are nearly perfected and plans are complete for mechanization of the sugar beet crop - after war priorities ends - but up to now much labour has been needed to grow sugar beets successfully. This labour was not available - the much-needed workers had gone to war - or into war industries. So - more power to the farmer who carried on, growing sugar beets in the face of difficulties - real difficulties they were too.

True, the price of beets has risen from a basis of \$6.85 per ton (for the average beet of 16%) in 1939 to \$11.00 in 1944. But so, also have the prices risen of the three great competing crops grown in the sugar beet country of South Western Ontario. These crops are corn, soya beans and white beans and, of these - the mightiest is corn! And while the net returns per acre of any of these crops has not been as high as the net return from sugar beets of aver-

age yeidl, every farmer could handle greater acreage of them on his farm without having to worry so much about labour.

Now the turn is in sight! At last the field labour problem is easing off! More farm labour is available in 1944 to harvest the 15,000 acre sugar beet crop than was on hand to barely suffice for harvesting the much smaller crop of 1944 - only 9,200 acres.

Sugar is rationed and even under rationing there is only enough to go round. The scarcity will be with us until the conquered and occupied countries get into full swing production again. This will take years, so Ontario grown beet sugar is surely going to have its inning from now on.

Suppose, for example, that enough beets are grown to keep all Canada's beet sugar refineries going full blast for 1945 - we will still have to import 75% of our sugar requirements - even under current rationing restrictions. So there will be no surplus sugar crop in Canada to glut the markets and knock the price down. We are all assured of that. So full steam ahead for a full acreage of sugar beets in 1945!

This is published in the interests of greater wartime sugar production in Ontario to help win the war. Sugar is needed on our fighting fronts.



Yon Shimizu poses for a photo at the Ontario farm camps.



Yon Shimizu recalls an epic baseball game in Glencoe near the end of his stay on the camp, but he wasn't as fortunate as his counterparts in Essex County. "Our star pitcher lost the power of his good arm,

and we were not able to win." Shimizu would be reunited

with his family in Toronto in 1943 and continue his routine of working long hours in order to support his education in chemical engineering at the University of Toronto.

Upon graduating in 1948, Shimizu found that discrimination was still part of being a Japanese-Canadian. He was eventually able to find work in Wallaceburg, where he continues to reside. In addition to working as a chemical engineer and business executive, Shimizu earned a Masters of Business Administration at the University of Windsor by attending night classes. He also received Citizen of the Year awards from both the Wallaceburg and District Chamber of Commerce and the Wallaceburg Junior Chamber of Commerce during his long career. "It took about 10 years for the discrimination to fade away, but I am not bitter," he says.

Shimizu wrote a book entitled *The Exiles* in 1993. It includes stories from the Nisei who left British Columbia during the war years and found themselves on trains heading east. The book documents the perseverance of many of the Nisei who eventually found success throughout Canada. Shimizu was also instrumental in getting an historical plaque installed at Schreiber. The plaque describes how several hundred young men came to arrive there in 1942 and were the beginnings of a substantial Japanese-Canadian community in Ontario.

On September 22, 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced a Redress Settlement negotiated between the National Association of Japanese Canadians and the federal government. The settlement acknowledged injustices against Japanese-Canadians during and after World War II. It provided a payment of \$21,000 to all Japanese-Canadians affected by the provisions of the War Measures Act and cleared the criminal records of all those charged with offenses stemming from violations of the Act. It also reinstated the citizenship of those who were exiled to Japan.

The experience of the Nisei who were sent to Southwestern Ontario is one of both misconceptions and understanding in a time of war. "You can look at the history as a dark period, but also as a time when people who didn't know much about each other found common ground," says Dr. Bangarth.

Today, the site of the Essex farm camp is covered by a highway, with no evidence that it was once a busy farming outpost in a national war effort and the temporary living quarters of a disenfranchised community, a community that would have a long, difficult, but ultimately successful journey towards re-establishing their home in Canada.



## Join the FARM COMMANDOS AND HELP HARVEST FOOD for VICTORY

**SPEND** a day or two each week on the farm during harvesting. Join the thousands of Farm Commandos who are prepared to "close up shop" or lay down their tools for a time, if necessary, to "raid" the harvest fields and help ensure the safe harvest of millions of dollars worth of precious food.

Farm Commando Brigades are springing up in Chambers of Commerce, Boards of Trade, Service Clubs and Churches all over Ontario—bringing together townsmen who are willing to make a direct, patriotic contribution to the War Effort and gain the good-will of neighboring farmers at the same time.

If there is no Farm Commando Brigade forming in your locality, take it up with your

Service Club, Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce or Church Executive and get your local Brigade started at once.

The need for a great emergency reserve of Farm Commandos is urgent. The "take" is tremendous. Ontario farmers must have every possible man-hour of labour during harvesting to prevent irreparable loss of foods to the Allied War Effort and to Canada herself.

Your help is needed—NOW. Volunteer in The Farm Commando Brigade and be ready to help if harvest emergencies arise.



ONTARIO INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE — AGRICULTURE — LABOUR — EDUCATION — AND DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR, OTTAWA

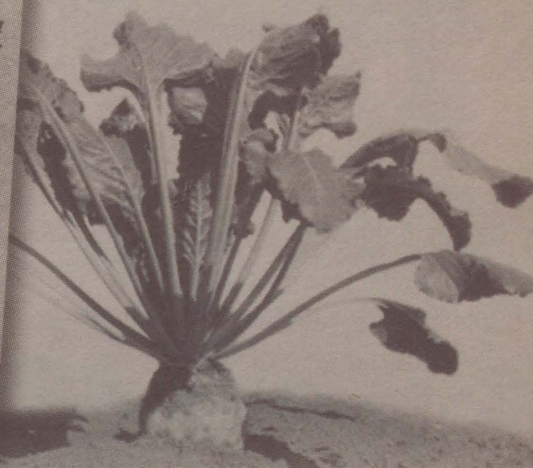
OFSF Ad from 1942

### To Learn More

The Exiles: an archival history of the World War II Japanese road camps in British Columbia and Ontario / [compiled] by Yon Shimizu. Wallaceburg, Ont. : Shimizu Consulting and Pub., c1993.

Bangarth, Stephanie. "The Long, Wet Summer of 1942: The Ontario Farm Service Force, Small-Town Ontario and the Nisei." *Canadian Ethnic Studies* 37, no. 1 (2005): 40-62. Available through Knowledge Ontario at <http://www.accessmylibrary.com/article-161-137919909/long-wet-summer-1942.html>.

Voices raised in protest : defending citizens of Japanese ancestry in North America, 1942-49 / Stephanie Bangarth. Vancouver : UBC Press, c2008.





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# ONE RIDER, ONE HORSE, ONE ATHLETIC TEAM

By Andy Comber

**T**oday is their day, their time together. One rider, one horse – one athletic team. There is an unmistakable bond.

Seventeen-year-old Merina Quaggiotto, a grade 12 student at St. Thomas Villanova Catholic Secondary School, arrives at the Maple Grove Equestrian Centre, just south of Essex on the Mole Sideroad. There is purpose in her step as she approaches the turnout paddocks. She has been riding since she was eight years old – something she has always wanted to do, without really understanding why.

"Where are you Taylor Made to Ride?" she calls out.

The mature quarter horse recognizes his friend.

"There you are Taylor," she says.

There is no hesitation as the horse steps towards Merina. The two old friends walk to the stables, getting reacquainted and catching up on the week's events.

First comes the grooming, a tactile connection between rider and horse – a natural way to build trust. Taylor willingly accepts Merina's soft touch. He accepts the saddle and tack with less enthusiasm. But he is controlled, like any athlete accepting the necessary gear of sport.

There is a walk to the outdoor arena. Merina adds strokes, pats and talk. Taylor walks alongside in unison with her step. They are always a team, working together.

For the warm-up ride, Merina holds the reins with one hand and strokes Taylor with the other. Now the work begins – jumps and turns.

"I will have to do it right," Merina says. "If I don't, Taylor will get frustrated with me. He can be fussy that way."

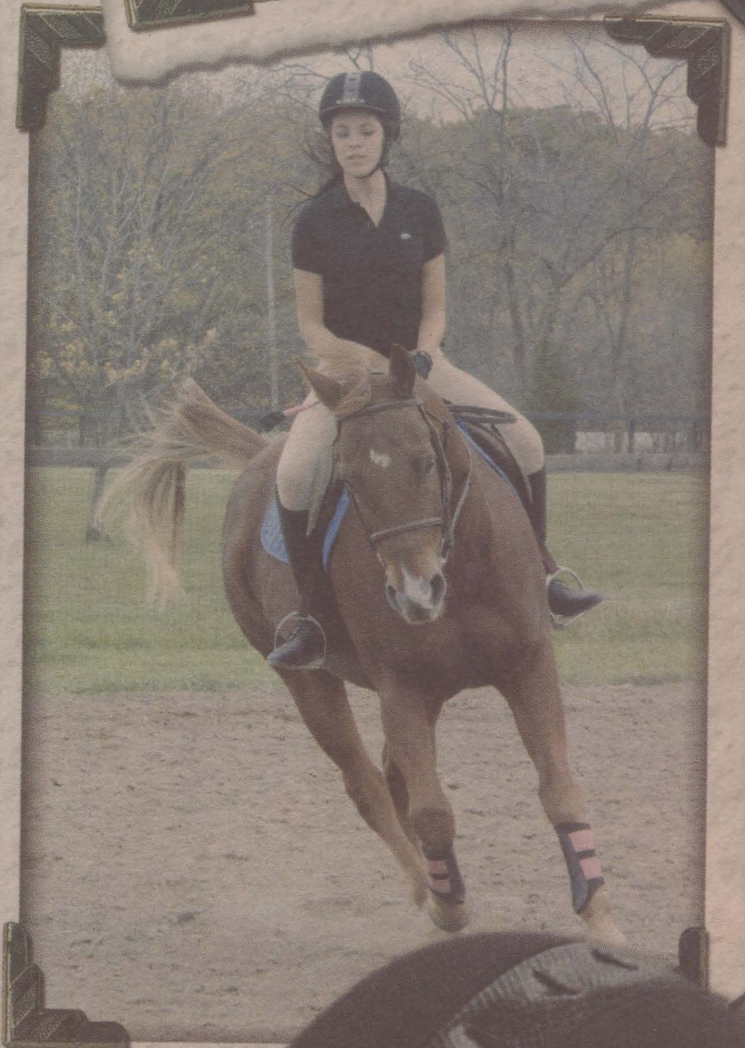
Merina's instructor, Karen Goetz, calls out directions. When all goes well, the rider and horse seem to be one, taking to the air.

The exercise and practice are done. A cool-down along the trail brings back a relaxed atmosphere. Heartbeats calm.

Today is their day, their time together. One rider, one horse, one athletic team. There is an unmistakable bond.







TAYLOR





# CAMP CEDARWIN:

## Colour, Cameras and Creativity

It was a picture perfect autumn day October 24, as members of Shooters Photography Club embarked upon a monthly photo shoot at Camp Cedarwin. Located on Cedar Creek, on County Road 23, just south of County Road 20 in the Town of Essex, Camp Cedarwin is operated by Scouts Canada.

Shooters Photography Club holds a photo shoot each month at various locations throughout Essex County, capturing the beauty of the region on each outing. The club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m., at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Ruthven. New members are welcome. 📷

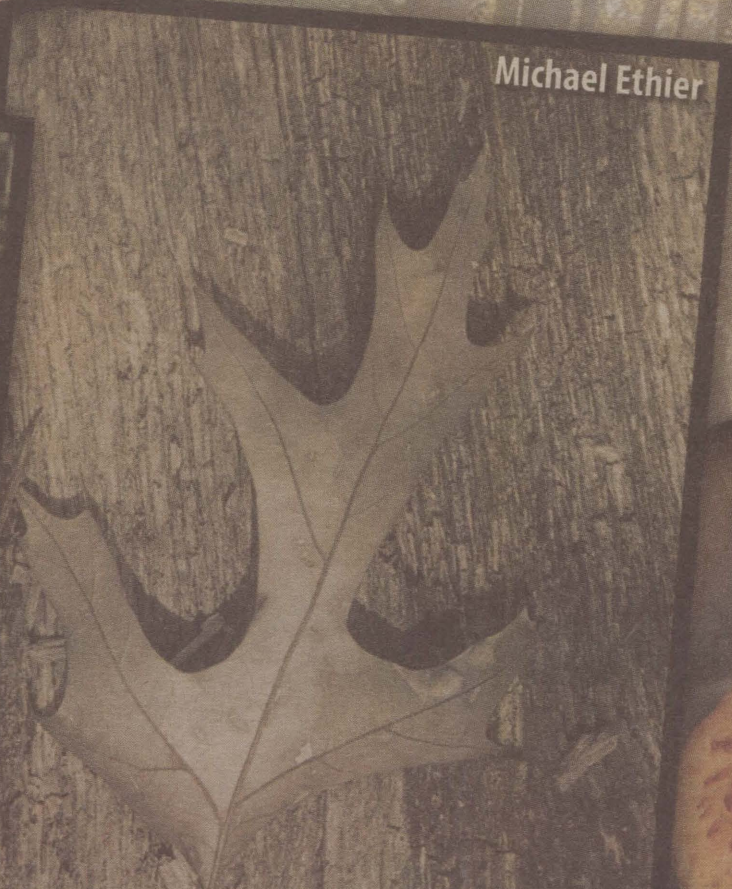
Background image by Anna Lamarche



Andy Comber



Paul Bourque



Michael Ethier





Ann Cotter



Lynne Morand



Ann Cotter



Paul Bourque

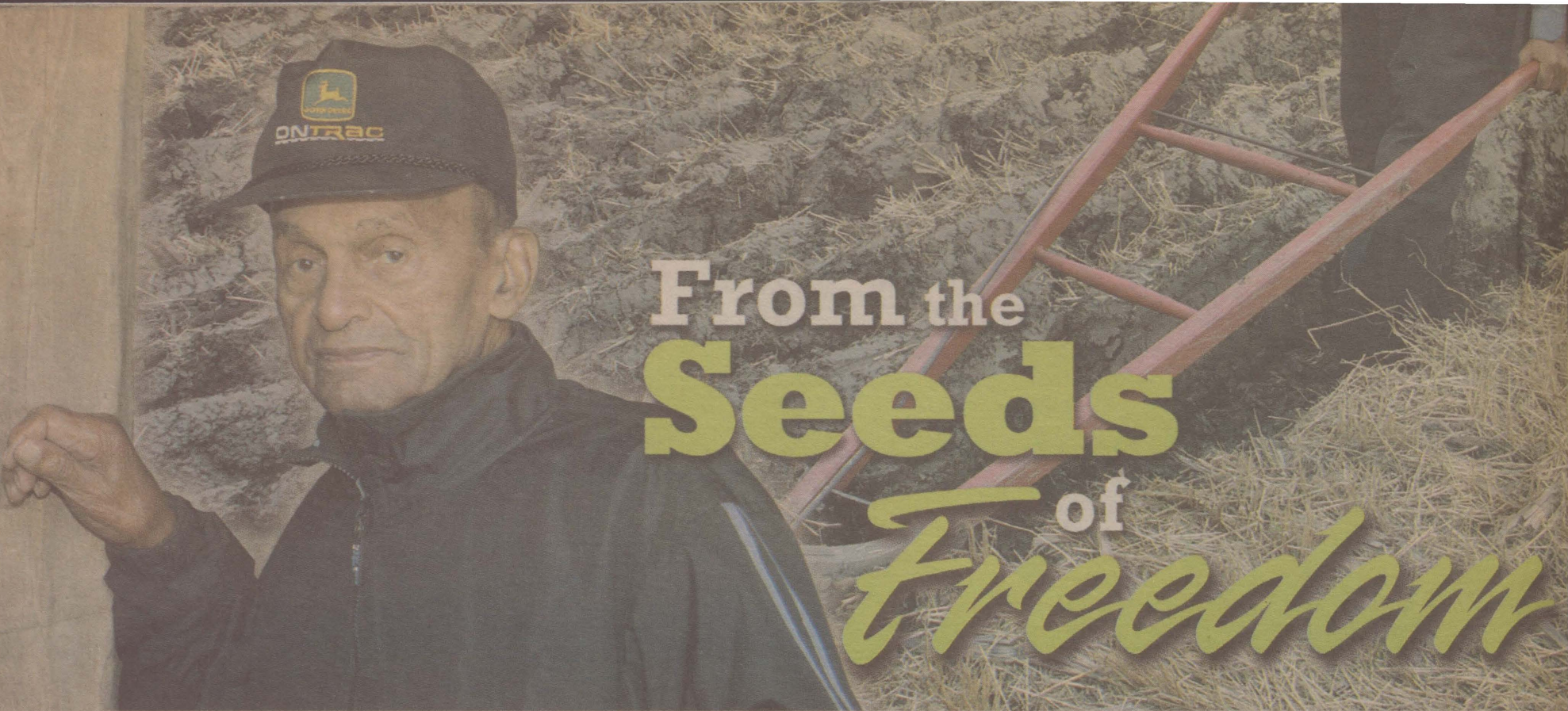


Michael Ethier



Andy Comber





# From the Seeds of Freedom

By Andy Comber

# A

young man stands behind a plow. Another acre or more has been added to the neat furrows of yesterday. The horse stands steady, true to its task, paused now, deliberate, as if it can read time from the slant of the sun. The day's work is done.

Fred Johnson looks to the sky, a vast blue. He can feel his feet in the freshly turned earth, firm on this ground where his grandfather and his father stood before him – their home harvested from the seeds of freedom.

This a scene Johnson paints in your mind, as he describes his youth, sitting at ease in the living room of his home on Dunn Road in the Village of Colchester.

"I was born James Fred Johnson, on Oct. 24, 1915. I go by Fred," Johnson says.

"I was born here. The old house used to be right behind this one."

A small barn remains on the property, part of the original 20 acres of farmland purchased by Johnson's grandfather, James Johnson, a name he took upon finding freedom in Canada.

"My grandfather, Gabriel Timberlake, escaped from slavery in Kentucky. He was 19 at the time," Johnson says. It was the mid-1840s when his grandfather escaped from Erlanger, a settlement in northern Kentucky.

About 20 people planned to escape at nightfall, but Timberlake found himself in a smaller group that was delayed by an unexpected encounter with the slaveholder. Once they got on their way, it was people opposed to slavery – abolitionists – who would help them clear the first major hurdle, the Ohio River, Johnson says. There was also the Underground Railroad, an informal network of secret routes and safe houses.

Ohio was a free state, but the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 required runaway slaves to be returned. Slaveholders often tracked the runaways, returning them to slavery. Timberlake's group was headed for Michigan, over 200 miles north and at least three days away on foot – if they walked non-stop.

The group found a home among a Quaker farming community near Cassopolis, in southwest Michigan, Johnson says. Freedom seemed certain. But the slaveholders caught up with them, busting down a cabin

door to retrieve their "property."

"One girl escaped through a window," Johnson says.

The community was alerted, and the slaveholders were forced to abide by personal liberty laws, a series of laws passed in northern U.S. states that effectively nullified the Fugitive Slave Act. A court decision would be needed before anyone could be moved.

By a stroke of luck, the regular judge was not available on the day of the hearing. His replacement, a judge with abolitionist leanings, granted the prisoners their freedom.

Now that their location was known, the group feared that the slaveholders would return and take them back by force, ignoring the law. Another course of action was decided.

"They made their way to Canada," Johnson says. They most likely crossed the Detroit River near Amherstburg, a known terminal of the Underground Railroad. From there they were told to move east, away from the border, Johnson says.

"My grandfather worked for a farmer on the Gore Road," he says. In time, he was able to purchase his own plot of land on Dunn Road. It was at this point that he changed his name from Gabriel Timberlake to James Johnson.

Johnson says his grandfather married twice and had a large family. His father, James Peter Johnson, inherited the farm. Over the years more land was added.

James Peter married Alzoria Graham. The couple had three children. Fred had a brother, Marcellus, who was 10 years his senior, and a sister, Viola, who was eight years older.

"My earliest memory had to do with the end of the First World War," Johnson says.

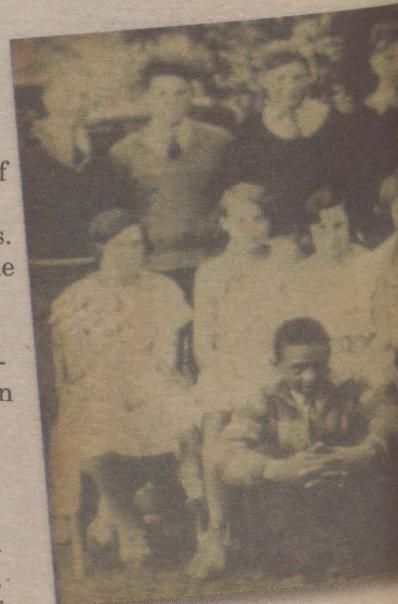
"I remember that one instance – because they made such a fuss." Johnson says he attended the old schoolhouse in Colchester. The original school building, mostly intact, is now owned by the Town of Essex.

During Fred's youth, there was no segregation at the Colchester school. It was a different story when his father attended the same school.

"There was a chalk line down the centre of the school," Johnson says. "The blacks could not cross the line. They would get their lessons when the other children were on recess."



*Fred Johnson's father, James Peter, helped build the Central Grove AME Church, in 1911. Fred was born just four years later. The Johnson family has always had close ties to the church.*





"There was much more tolerance when I went to school," he adds.

When Fred was only eight years old, his mother died of tuberculosis. Viola took over the household duties. The boys had their chores too, with plenty to do on the mixed farm, Johnson says.

"We had an orchard. We had all kinds of fruit," he says. Only a large pear tree remains, he adds. "It has been there as long as I can remember."

Fred entered Harrow High School with a lofty goal in mind.

"I wanted to be a doctor," he says.

Fate had other plans. The Great Depression had taken hold of the nation, the world. There would be no school. Farm chores and other work would consume his time.

"There was no money," Johnson says. "Every time I would see the other kids going by on their way to school, I would be sick to my stomach."

Johnson says the farm produced a wide variety of crops. Fresh vegetables and other produce could be sold at markets, or peddled door to door. For a time the farm grew sorghum, a cane-like grass, Johnson says. The cane would be crushed in a mill, powered by a horse that would walk around in circles.

After the Second World War broke out, manufacturing jobs related to the war effort became available. Johnson got a job working at the Ford plant in Windsor making Bren gun carriers.

"We could make 91 cents an hour," he says. "That was big money then."

Johnson says the family bought its first tractor in 1941 – it cost \$1200 new. No more would he be walking behind a plow. Driving the tractor home one day, he stopped to get the mail. He had been called up to service. But he would soon find that he was excused; farm production was considered essential, and his father was not well.

In the more prosperous years after the war, the family went into the trucking business, hauling various materials. For some years, they were contracted by the township to bring trash to the landfill.

Johnson says his father passed away in 1957, at the age of 91. Neither Johnson nor his sister had married.

Over the years, Johnson witnessed many changes in Colchester. Schooling moved to Harrow. Cottages sprang up. Modern conveniences became the norm. At time, there were no electric refrigerators – ice was harvested from the harbour, to provide for people's iceboxes, he says. He saw the switch from oil lamps to electric lamps, woodstoves to furnaces, outhouses to indoor plumbing.

Johnson says the family was always close to their church, the Central Grove AME Church, just north of Harrow. His grandfather was one of the first trustees and his father helped build the current church, he says.

Johnson knew Ivy Burnett, who lived in the Chatham area, from church socials. They married in November 1987.

"My bachelor days came to an end at age 72."

At 95, Johnson stays close to home – this home where his grandfather and his father stood before him, harvested from the seeds of freedom.



Fred Johnson, front left, dreamed of being a doctor when he started Harrow Continuation School (Harrow High) in 1930.



Fred Johnson's grandfather, James, crossed the Detroit River to freedom in the late 1840s, perhaps much like the reenactment of the Amherstburg Homecoming depicted here.

## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Between 1840 and 1860, before the American Civil War, enslaved Africans followed the North Star along the Underground Railroad – a secret network of routes and safe houses that guided them to freedom in Canada.

Many freedom seekers made their way here to Essex County. They laid the foundation for future generations, building the heritage, traditions and culture of African-Canadians. It is a remarkable history celebrated in February – Black History Month.

Recognized across North America, Black History Month was adopted by Ontario in 1979, through the efforts of the Ontario Black History Society. It became a national celebration in 1996.

Black History Month highlights the rich contributions to our society from people of African and Caribbean descent, and of their ongoing struggle for equity and social justice. It is an opportunity to learn about and honour their contributions to the Canadian community in a shared history.

Essex County is fortunate to be the host community of the North American Black Historical Museum and Cultural Centre, in Amherstburg. It is Canada's first Black heritage location to be designated a National Historic Site. And it is one reason, it is said, that Black History Month is every month in Essex County.

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# How It's Made: Spinning a Yarn

By Jennifer Cranston

Linda Grondin of Maidstone has worked with animals for decades. She has raised breeder dogs and horses. She even spent 20 years breeding, raising and showing cats. It's a source of pride for her that one of her cats won "Best Tonkinese" in a worldwide competition.

In 1998, Grondin found herself in need of a way to keep her meadow mowed. It seemed only practical to start raising sheep. Three sheep named Cinderella, Baa Baa and Snow White became her living lawn mowers.

When she was six years old, Grondin learned to knit and crochet from the grandmother of the boys who lived next door to her.

"Grandma Hanson taught all the neighbourhood kids," Grondin remembers.

It wasn't long before a friend pointed out the obvious connection between her animals and her hobby. Shetland sheep produce Shetland wool. Grondin set about learning how to transform a sheep's fleece into a spool of yarn. After her first spinning class in Delaware, she realized she was a natural.

Twelve years of experience and several classes and seminars later, Grondin has honed her craft into a true art form and a home-based business called Storybook's Spinning a Yarn.

Grondin can spin yarns with chunky, funky special effects or fine enough to be made into lace. Almost any natural fibre can be spun. Grondin will even take custom orders, creating hats, scarves or gloves from the hair of a beloved pet. She mixes dog hair with a little bit of wool to add stretch and the results are impressive.

"It's about the warmest you can get," she says. "And the dog hair makes it waterproof."

All knitters and crocheters are designers in Grondin's opinion, even if they use a pattern and store-bought yarn.

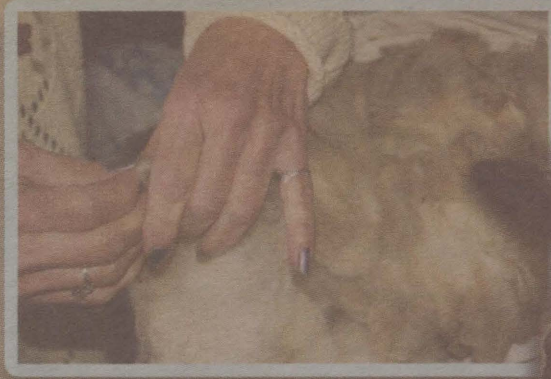
Grondin's home-based business provides classes in spinning, knitting, crocheting, felting and fulling. She also sells all the tools a student needs and stocks a large selection of yarn from around the world. She teaches her students that it doesn't make sense to put hours into designing and creating if you're going to use poor quality materials.

It certainly isn't necessary to make your own yarn to create a beautiful product, but it can lend an unequalled personal touch to any project.

*Grondin made this Shetland Wedding Shawl from hand-spun wool from her own sheep. The yarn is so light that the whole shawl can pass through a wedding ring.*







↑ **Picking the fleece** – When a sheep is sheered it produces a fleece. The fleece must be picked free of dirt, debris and bio-matter (a nice way of saying poop). The fleece is very soft and contains lots of lanolin. Grondin spends anywhere from two to four hours picking a fleece. It is her favourite part of the whole process. The fleece is washed, dried and then machine-picked. The picking machine is a vicious looking device that picks remaining debris from the fleece by running it through two facing panels of nails. Grondin is very careful when handling this machine; operators have been known to get their hands caught in the swinging nails.

When the fleece is as clean as it can be, Grondin dyes it. Wool can be dyed at any point in the process but Grondin chooses this point. That is, if she dyes it at all. Many of her creations are made from un-dyed, natural looking wool. Grondin uses several methods for dyeing wool, including solar dyeing, kettle dyeing, pot dyeing and rainbow dyeing.

← **Carding** – Carding can be done by hand with two hand-held blocks covered in fine pins. Grondin uses a carding machine. Fleece is fed through two spindles of fine pins. This process separates and aligns the fibres in one direction. When the wool is ready, she removes it from the spindle with a metal hook. When this process is complete the fleece has become "roving." Roving is rolled into balls to await spinning.

**Spinning** – At first glance, a spinning wheel seems like a complicated device, but seen in action it's really rather simple. Roving is fed little by little into a narrow channel where it is compressed into a thread. The thread wraps around a spindle that is turned by the large wheel. A foot pedal turns the large wheel. This initial step produces a single-ply yarn. Two or more plies are then spun together to make multi-ply yarn. Grondin takes the newly spun yarn and hangs it for a day so the plies become balanced. Then she washes it and hangs it to dry. Now it is ready to be used. →



↑ This knit bag has been felted to create a dense, hole-free bag.

↑ **Knitting or crocheting, fulling or felting** – Once the yarn is created, it can then be knitted or crocheted into anything from a hat to a sweater to a blanket or a bag. Felting is a process applied to a knitted product. It is soaked in hot, soapy water and worked with a rolling pin to bind the fibres into a denser fabric.



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# Coffee with...

## Rachel Starr Thomson

### Creativity and Core Values

By Laurie Brett

It's a quiet Friday morning at Caffe Mondo, the coffee shop at Windsor Crossings Outlet Mall. Although the barista is ready to serve up cappuccinos, Rachel Starr Thomson chooses a sweet chai latte. I willingly follow her lead.

The Windsor-based author is carrying her laptop and a couple of books. She plans to do some writing at the coffee shop after the interview is over. As the eldest of 12 children, all but one of them living at home, Thomson admits she sometimes has to be creative in finding a quiet place to work.

"With that many people, you learn to create your own privacy," she says.

At 27 years of age, Thomson has a thoroughly creative spirit and an interesting personal story to tell. The author of *Tales of the Heartily Homeschooled* (co-authored with her cousin, Carolyn Joy Currey) is mostly self-taught. "I've often said that I got my entire education because my parents taught me to read and said, 'There's the library.'"

Her parents, Jay and Suzanne Thomson, didn't merely teach their children to learn; they also taught them to be proactive in pursuing their dreams and embracing opportunities. The entrepreneurial spirit thrives in their home, with everyone pitching in at one time or another to make fudge, chocolate bark or truffles. Sweet Somethings produces gourmet chocolate treats out of the Thomson home and sells them at craft fairs and public events throughout Essex County.

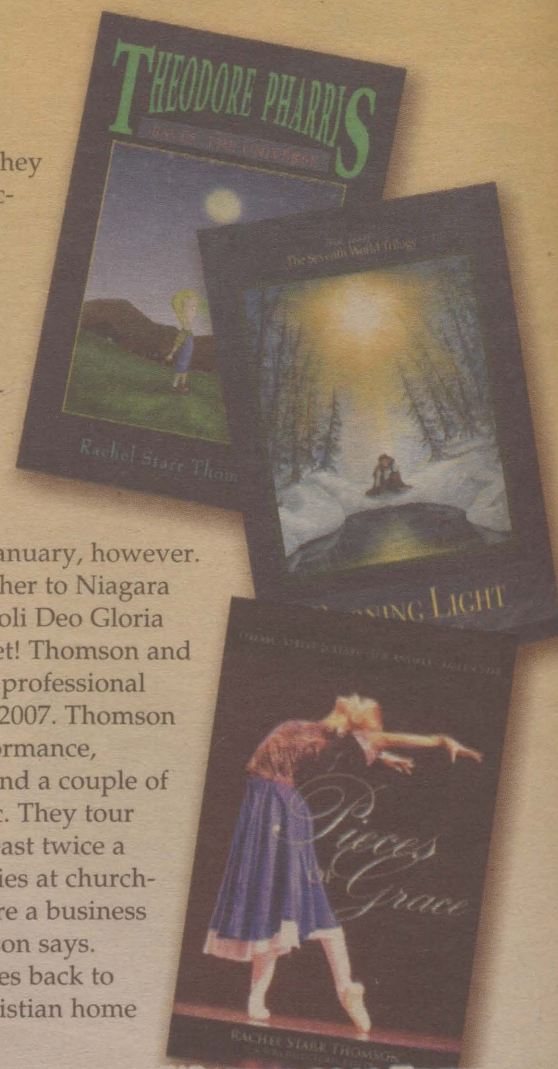
And that's not all. Thomson calls her home "a hotbed of creativity." Her father is not merely an entrepreneur; he's also a musician, who recently collaborated on an album with a friend, and he's a poet, a short story writer and a painter. One sister is a full-time photographer and painter – she paints bride's wedding shoes as mementos of the big day. Another sister builds websites and another has a cake decorating business that operates out of the home.

Thomson stops to explain that they have a very large house with a second kitchen. They're a tight-knit clan and everyone lives at home "voluntarily," she says.

"I think part of what's kept us tight as we've grown older is that our parents have been so supportive of us doing our own thing. There hasn't been any sense that we have to fight to be ourselves."

She'll be sad to leave home in January, however. The success of her work is taking her to Niagara Falls where her ballet company, Soli Deo Gloria Ballet, is headquartered. Yes, ballet! Thomson and her cousin, Carolyn Joy Currey, a professional ballerina, started collaborating in 2007. Thomson writes the narrative for each performance, Currey choreographs the dance, and a couple of Currey's sisters provide the music. They tour throughout southern Ontario at least twice a year and pursue other opportunities at churches, schools and conferences. "We're a business but we're also a ministry," Thomson says.

Everything Thomson does relates back to her core values. She lives in a Christian home





where Bible readings lead to philosophical discussions and a healthy respect for everyone's opinion. She also lives in a home that values creative ingenuity. At age 13, she wrote her first book, *Theodore Pharris Saves the Universe* (available online from Little Dozen Press). It's the story of an eight-year-old boy who accidentally shoots a spaceship out of the sky with his slingshot, triggering an adventure that involves foiling an alien plot to blow up the universe.

"My dad read it and critiqued it, which I wasn't thrilled about at the time, but it was really, really helpful and he really pushed me to take it seriously and treat it professionally," she says.

The encouragement has taken her in several different directions. At age 18, Thomson started writing a devotional newsletter that she sent to subscribers around the world. In 2005, parts of the newsletter were compiled into a book called *Letters to a Samuel Generation*, while other parts were published in *Heart to Heart: Meeting with God in the Lord's Prayer*.

More recently, she's turned to fantasy fiction and is set to release the third book in the Seventh World Trilogy by Christmas. *Worlds Unseen*, *Burning Light* and the final book, *Coming Days*, chronicle Maggie Sheffield's fight to uncover the truth about the world's history, which has been suppressed by an evil empire. Thomson maintains a Facebook page for the Seventh World Trilogy and a website for the book, [worldsunseen.com](http://worldsunseen.com).

Breaking into the world of mainstream publishing is something that Thomson believes she can do, but for now she uses the Internet extensively, self-publishing her books and using print-on-demand services to keep her costs down. Less than half of the manuscripts she's written have been turned into published works, so she continues to edit and perfect her work.

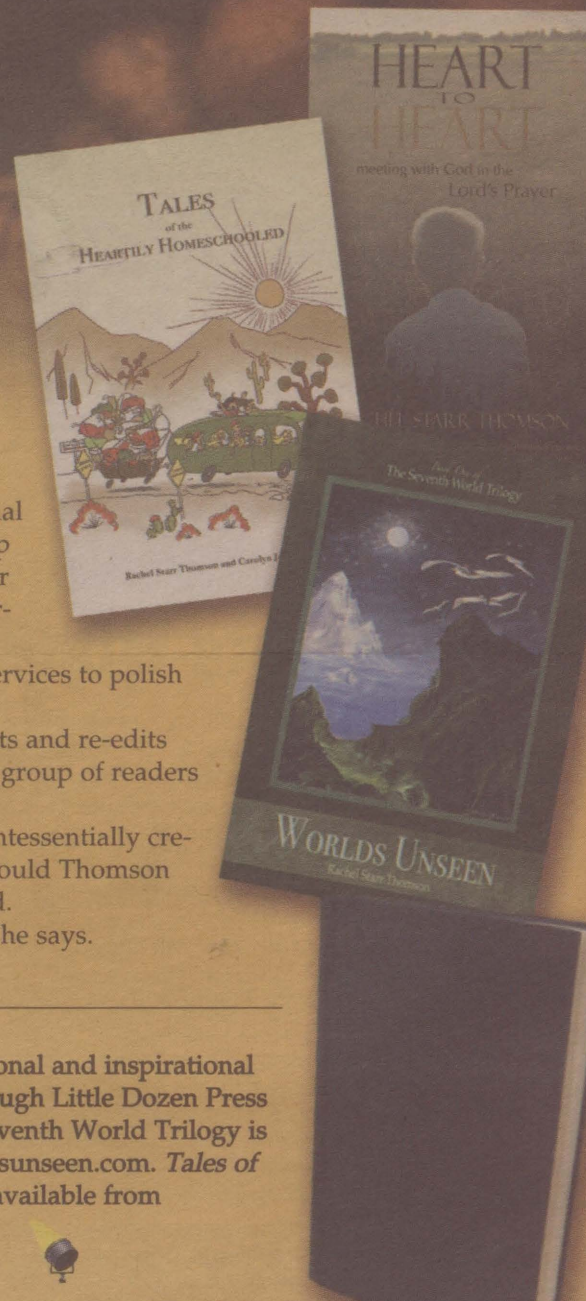
She also edits other people's work – fiction and non-fiction. Some of her clients are getting manuscripts ready for traditional publication but want to offer up their best work when they enter the competitive publishing market. Others are preparing their memoirs and use Thomson's services to polish their final draft.

Who edits her work? She edits and re-edits herself, line by line, and uses a group of readers to provide critical feedback.

With a job that's mobile, quintessentially creative and soul inspiring, how could Thomson be anything other than satisfied.

"I love my life; I really do," she says.

Rachel Starr Thomson's devotional and inspirational works are available online through Little Dozen Press ([www.littledozen.com](http://www.littledozen.com)). The Seventh World Trilogy is available online at [www.worldsunseen.com](http://www.worldsunseen.com). *Tales of the Heartily Homeschooled* is available from [www.rachelstarrthomson.com](http://www.rachelstarrthomson.com).



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ESTATE WINES



# A Taste of Essex County

By Laurie Brett

## Colio Estate Wines

A 75-year-old cedar strip canoe adorns the label of Colio Estate Wine's 2008 River Rock Red. Released in June, the Cabernet Franc-Merlot-Shiraz blend is one of four wines launched this summer as part of the winery's new Lake and River Series. It also has the singular distinction of being the official wine of the Canadian Canoe Museum.

Even if you don't canoe or haven't much interest in the fact that Farley Mowat's and Pierre Elliott Trudeau's canoes make their home at the Peterborough museum, most Canadians feel an affinity to the great outdoors, says Doug Beatty, Colio's vice-president of marketing.

The challenge for this latest series of wines, Beatty says, was to capture the winery's story. Not only was it the first post-Prohibition winery in the region, started in 1980, but Colio is also the first winery to own properties in two of the most important VQA regions in Canada – the 200 acres along Lake Erie's north shore in Colchester and now 21 acres on the upper bank of the Niagara River. Hence the name "Lake and River."

Working in conjunction with the marketing team is no small feat for vineyard manager Kevin Donohue and winemaker Tim Reilly. Selling into many different markets means the two maestros of the operation must constantly watch for the convergence of optimum conditions and the development of special characteristics in the grapes. The harvest began two weeks early this year, in the first week of September.

Donohue has a "huge task," says

Beatty. He must watch each year's crop varietal by varietal and block by block.

"The grapes are on their own schedule; there's no science to it," he says. "One block of Cabernet Franc could ripen earlier than another."

Wind, sun exposure, rain, and soil conditions make every growing season unique, and that translates into unique flavour, especially in Essex County.

"We are known for having red varietals that are exemplary – Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot. You can taste the richness of the flavour profiles of the grapes grown down here."

Colio now produces over 300,000 cases of wine per year, an accomplishment fuelled in part by the success of the Girls' Night Out series. Although targeted marketing of wines was controversial at first, Beatty says it has definitely caught on.

"Women were marketed to; now they're marketed for."

Two new flavoured wines – Strawberry Samba (strawberry and watermelon flavoured) and Tropical Tango (grapefruit, pineapple and lemonade flavoured) – have been added to the Girls' Night Out series. Beatty says these wines appeal to women looking for lighter wines that "speak to a different occasion" – somewhat less serious, perhaps, than occasions calling for the serious reds and whites that anchor the winery's vast selection.

No matter the occasion, Colio Estate Wines offers handcrafted wines that speak to Essex County, its wonderful winemakers and its passionate growers.



### Recommended Wine Pairings

Colio's V-P Marketing, Doug Beatty, recommends serving Tourtière with one of the following wines:

**2008 River Rock Red** – Cabernet Franc with equal parts Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Shiraz

**2006 CEV Meritage** – Merlot with Cabernet Franc

**2007 Girls' Night Out Cabernet/Shiraz** – Cabernet Sauvignon with Shiraz

Colio Estate wines are readily available at their boutique winery stores and LCBO.

## Tourtière

Tourtière is a traditional French-Canadian meat pie. It is usually made with ground pork, veal or beef, but wild game, rabbit or fish have also been used in regional variations of this holiday meal. Although sweet green peas, cubed potatoes and diced carrots could be added to the recipe, the rich flavours of the pork, onions, garlic and mushrooms are sufficiently satisfying.

### Crust:

Pastry for double-crust 9 or 10 inch pie

1 egg, beaten  
1 tsp. water

### Filling:

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
2 lb. ground pork  
1½ c. beef stock  
3 onions, finely chopped  
3 garlic cloves, minced  
2 c. mushrooms, thinly sliced  
1 c. celery, finely chopped  
¾ tsp. salt  
½ tsp. cinnamon  
½ tsp. black pepper  
½ tsp. ground savory  
¼ tsp. cloves  
1 c. fresh bread crumbs  
½ c. fresh parsley, finely chopped

In a large skillet or saucepan, heat oil over medium heat. Add pork and cook for 10 minutes, using a wooden spoon or spatula to mince the pork. Drain off fat.

Stir in stock, onions, garlic, mushrooms, celery, salt, cinnamon, pepper, savory and cloves; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for 45 minutes or until about ¼ cup of liquid remains.

Stir in bread crumbs and parsley. Taste and adjust seasoning. Cover and refrigerate until cold.

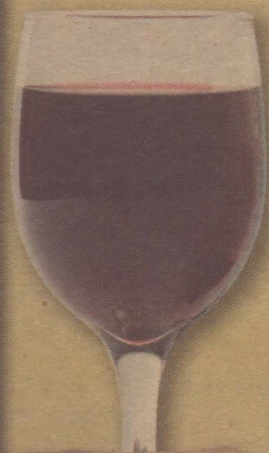
Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

On lightly floured surface, roll out bottom pastry to ⅛ inch thickness. Fit into pie plate. Spoon filling into pie shell until slightly mounded and evenly distributed.

Roll out top pastry. Moisten rim of bottom pie shell with water. Cover with top pastry, pressing edges to seal. Trim and flute pastry edge.

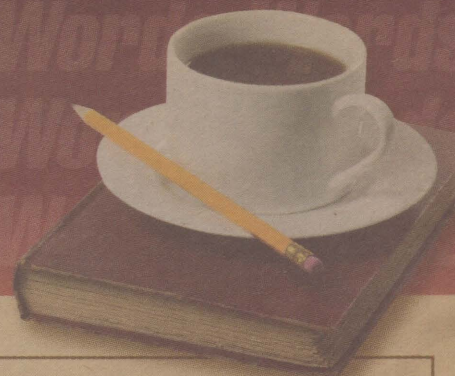
Combine egg with water and brush over pastry. If desired, add decorative shapes cut from remaining pastry. Arrange on top of pie and brush with more egg mixture.

Cut three or four steam vents in the top of the pie. Bake in 375 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. Let cool for 10 minutes before cutting.





# All About BOOKS



## Grist For The Mill

By Herb Colling

**Local Author!**

*Grist for the Mill* is the latest book by Herb Colling, and the most recent project for the Department of Culture and Recreation, Town of LaSalle.

In 1781, a French settler, Simone Drouillard, may have established the first grist mill in Ontario, located in LaSalle, formerly called La Petite Cote or the Little Coast. It was an austere log cabin, with a water wheel turbine, located on the banks of Turkey Creek near where Sprucewood and Malden Road intersect the river. Descendants of Drouillard still live in the community.

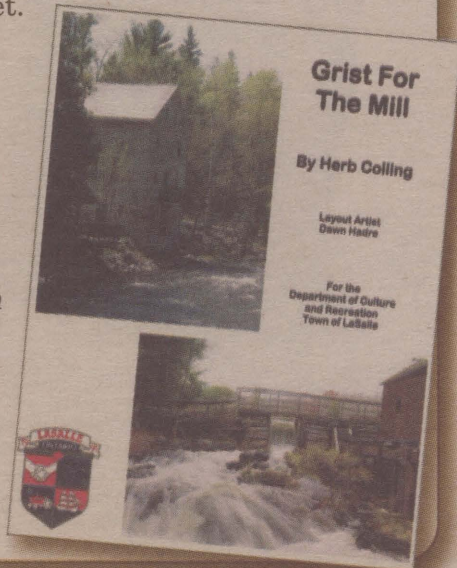
*Grist for the Mill* outlines the history of local and provincial mills (those still in existence). The booklet contains interesting pictures, tales of early struggles, and some fascinating ghost stories. Colling also shows an appreciation of the word "grist" – grinding grain for profit – as well as the milling process itself.

What if you had to grind your grist, or grain, to make your bread each day? Hand-grinding was time-consuming and back-breaking. It took settlers away from other chores. What an insight into our good fortune: having a local grocery store to provide our daily baked goods.

A retired CBC radio broadcaster, Colling has written three other books: *Pioneering The Auto Age, 99 Days: The Ford Strike In Windsor, 1945*, and *Turning Points: The Detroit Riot of 1967, A Canadian Perspective*.

*Grist For The Mill* is a fundraiser for the town. Proceeds will help recreate the original grist mill in recognition of LaSalle's cultural heritage. The booklets are available from the Department of Culture and Recreation, Town of LaSalle, and from the author. Contact Colling at: [acolling@wincom.net](mailto:acolling@wincom.net).

**Reviewed by** *Connie-Jean Latam*, the author of *Everything Is Food! Words of Wisdom from a Small Child*. *Connie-Jean Latam* is also a Doctor of Natural Medicine and a Certified Trauma, Loss and Addictions Counsellor.



## Colette and the Silver Samovar

By Nancy Belgue

**Local Author!**

*Colette and the Silver Samovar* is the latest book by Nancy Belgue, author of four critically acclaimed juvenile novels.

An ominous tea leaf reading predicts trouble ahead for Colette, a well-mannered nine-year-old with a creative writer's mind. Although her parents come from different cultures, they have worked hard to instill good moral values in their daughter. Through acts of loving honesty, and through the telling of an ancient Persian folk tale, they have passed on important life lessons.

Colette respects her parents, her good-hearted neighbours Mr. and Mrs. Singh, and the elderly Auntie Graves, as well as the many new friends she meets throughout the story. In the midst of one heart-pounding situation after another, the feisty and adventuresome Colette finds her parents' teachings a strong comfort and guide.

The virtues of family life are explored and the value of a treasured silver samovar is tested as Colette struggles to do the right thing, make her parents proud and bring her entire family together.

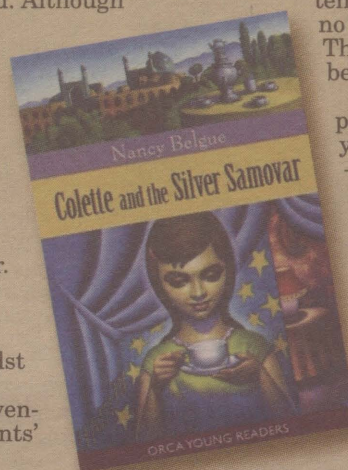
How kind and aware are you? Would you pay attention to a fairy tale and allow its special

message to assist you? This story yanks at your heart as Colette faces challenges most adults would find overwhelming.

Have you prepared your child or yourself to listen to the messages we receive in life no matter where they come from? These are some of the questions this beautiful book asks you to consider.

Nancy Belgue is an accomplished author of five books for young people, including *Casey Little – Yo Yo Queen* and *The Scream of the Hawk*. Her writing has appeared in magazines in both Canada and the United States and she has acted in television commercials, training videos and documentaries. She is Managing Editor of the magazine *Our Homes* (Windsor & Essex County) and also works part-time as a library assistant.

Books are available at Chapters and copies are available through the author who can be contacted at [nbelgue@gmail.com](mailto:nbelgue@gmail.com).



**Reviewed by** *Connie-Jean Latam*, the author of *Everything Is Food! Words of Wisdom from a Small Child*. *Connie-Jean Latam* is also a Doctor of Natural Medicine and a Certified Trauma, Loss and Addictions Counsellor.

## The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie

By Alan Bradley

Things are going well at Buckshaw in June of 1950. As a matter of fact, some would even say things are boring there. It's the same old routine – that is until some highly unusual occurrences take place. First, a dead jack snipe with a stamp on its bill is found on the kitchen doorstep. Second, a conversation, or rather a dispute, is heard in the middle of the night. Third, a dead body is discovered in the cucumber patch.

The main character in this novel is Flavia de Luce. She is brilliant, witty, and dedicated to finding out whose body it was that she found, and why he was murdered. The catch is – Flavia is an eleven-year-old girl! If you can see things through Flavia's eyes while reading this book, you are in for a real treat!

Flavia lives at Buckshaw, her home in England, with her widowed father, Colonel de Luce, her two older sisters, Ophelia and Daphne, the housekeeper/cook Mrs. Mullet, and Dogger – the house handyman and jack of all trades.

When Inspector Hewitt comes to investigate the body and the circumstances in which he was found, Flavia's instincts kick in. Then, when her own father is accused, she knows she has to find the answers. She heads into

Bishop's Lacey, the nearby town, on Gladys – her trusted bicycle – to look for clues or anything that will help clear her father's good name. Can she do it?

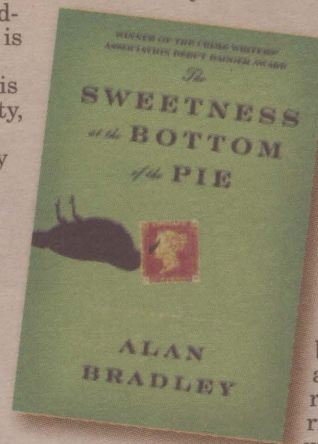
I found this story to be charming and exciting. Mr. Bradley's easy to understand writing style makes it a pleasure to read. He had me hooked from the very first page. I found I couldn't put this book down. Mr. Bradley incorporates humour, great attention to details of the time period, and completeness to his story. Flavia is adorable, fearless, bold and precocious. It is a delightful read for teens through adults.

We'll be seeing more of Flavia de Luce in future books, as this is the first in a series featuring the brilliant young sleuth.

Bradley is a Canadian author, born in Toronto. He has earned awards for his children's books, radio broadcasts of his short stories, and his journalism. Bradley won the Dabut Dagger Award from the Crimewriters Association for

*The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie*. Bravo!

**Reviewed by** *Lynda Schlichther*, a member of Essex Public Library's Adult Book Club.





# Storyteller: The Authorized Biography of Roald Dahl

By Donald Sturrock

There are 572 pages of writing. I didn't skip a word. All I knew about Roald Dahl when I started was that he wrote *James and the Giant Peach* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and that his wife, the actress Patricia Neal, had suffered a massive stroke. I wasn't sure the rest would be interesting. It wasn't. It was spell-binding. Author Donald Sturrock, a self-admitted neophyte in the biography game, held me until the last word.

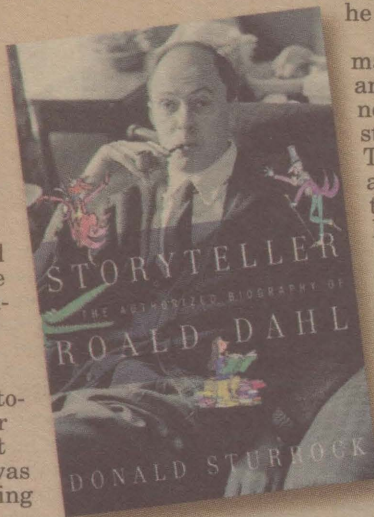
At six-foot-five, Roald Dahl was a giant in the field of children's literature, long before it had any cachet. In fact, he had already achieved success writing short stories and screenplays for adult audiences but not to the same fame. He was of Norwegian stock, living first in Wales, then in England, and his father died when he was three. His education at English boys' schools was brutal and sadistic. His flying career during World War II was terminated in a plane crash that left him with headaches and chronic back pain for the rest of his life. His subsequent posting in America afforded him access to millionaires and movie stars. His life with one, Patricia Neal, was

tested by the death of his daughter Olivia, a freak accident that almost killed his infant son, and a stroke that temporarily paralyzed his wife. After 30 years of marriage and five children, he divorced Neal and married Liccy Crossland, whom he adored.

He was a determined man in everything he did and a colossal pain in the neck when he felt circumstances warranted it. The book provides valuable insight into the tricky author/agent/publishing world and is a wealthy historical reference on British/U.S. secret intelligence during the Second World War. Interestingly, Dahl's daughter, Tessa, became an author herself, as did her daughter, Sophie, who is a world-renowned model.

Sturrock took pains to unravel fact from fiction on this famous storyteller. The research and construction of the tale are meticulous; his writing, inspiring. I came away from it wanting to read it again.

**Reviewed by Margaret J. McMaster**, the author of *Carried Away on Licorice Days*, *Babysitter Out of Control!* and *Looking for Love on Mongo Tongo*.



# On to Victory

By Mark Zuehlke

Released this year, on the 65th anniversary of VE Day, is a book that highlights a unique accord between Canada and the Netherlands. In his new book, *On to Victory*, Mark Zuehlke follows the movement of the First Canadian Army in Germany and Holland during April and May of 1945.

Often overlooked by other historians, these last few weeks of WWII are documented in great detail by Zuehlke.

Included in the book are veterans' recollections. Through them one can easily understand how a soldier, having made it safely this far, might be reluctant to die in these last battles. One can imagine the frustration as they must fight for possession of obscure hamlets, while each of the many waterways presents another obstacle. Refusing to admit defeat, the Germans fight as they retreat, finally backing themselves into "Fortress Holland."

Zuehlke describes scenes in which Canadian soldiers are mobbed by happy Dutch civilians. He carefully

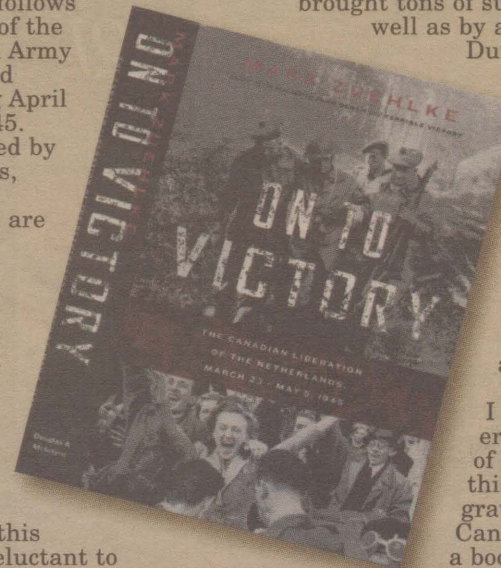
lays out the steps leading to Canadian involvement and ultimate success in negotiations to feed the starving Dutch people. He informs us that members of the Canadian army brought tons of supplies by truck as well as by air into the major Dutch cities in

Northern Holland.

"On to Victory" is a history describing military maneuvers, battles, death and destruction.

However, it also contains scenes of life, hope, gratitude and reconstruction.

In this book, I have finally discovered why the people of the Netherlands, to this day, care for the gravesites of fallen Canadian soldiers. It is a book Canadians should all read "lest we forget."



**Reviewed by Henrietta O'Neill**, the author of *In Search of a Heart*, a history of the people who lived in Point Pelee before it became a national park, *Birding At Point Pelee*, and *Finding Bill*, a book that chronicles the author's search for a Canadian soldier who briefly stayed with her parents in Holland during WWII.

# Stones into Schools

By Greg Mortenson

Inspirational, heartbreaking, humorous, and unbelievable only begin to describe the book *Stones into Schools*, written by Greg Mortenson. If this author sounds familiar, you may recall that he also co-authored *Three Cups of Tea*. This new book brings the reader to the end of 2009 in Pakistan and Afghanistan and centres on the experience of building schools for girls.

The organization Mortenson founded, Central Asia Institute, has been busy supplying funds for the building of these schools. But the organization isn't the only one who's busy. Mortenson finds himself criss-crossing the country giving speeches and raising the funds to continue his life's work. But his fundraising keeps him from his first love – being in Afghanistan and visiting the Afghanis who are busy overseeing the building of these schools. When an earthquake strikes Pakistan,

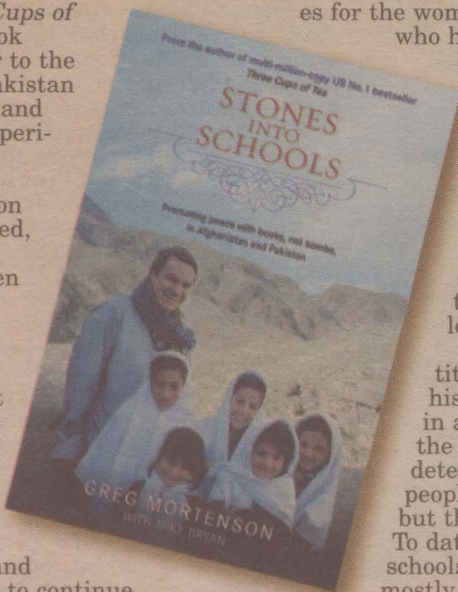
Mortenson's assistant must travel there to witness the destruction. The description of the devastation that the people endured humbles the reader.

Besides the schools, this organization has now started vocational classes for the women of Afghanistan who haven't been educated.

These women attend classes to learn how to sew, embroider, and type. But what do these women want to learn? How to operate a cell phone. Using a cell phone keeps them connected to each other and their loved ones.

The tenacity and fortitude of Mortenson and his co-workers keep one in awe. The description of the traveling and the determination of these people seem impossible, but the numbers don't lie. To date more than 145 schools have been built, mostly for girls, and the work to promote peace through education continues.

**Reviewed by Barbara Brothers-Kipp**, a retired Language Arts teacher and author of *Missy Meerkat and Me*.



# Demon: A Memoir

By Tosca Lee

Imagine, if you can, a conversation with someone or something that was present at the very birth of planet Earth. What would you expect to hear? Are you a person who believes in God as the supreme creator? Or, do you believe in the cosmic possibility that life began as a tiny spec in space until it grew into what we know today?

Now imagine if that someone or something started to tell you about creation from the point of view of a fallen angel! One of Satan's own demons before you, recalling the great fall of angels from heaven and the creation of humankind.

Clay is not religious. He is actually quite a bitter man struggling with a wishy-washy career in a publishing firm, and dealing with a complicated divorce, when all of a sudden temptation walks through the coffee shop door.

It seems like a no fail offer! A book about creation itself from an actual witness! It would have to be labeled

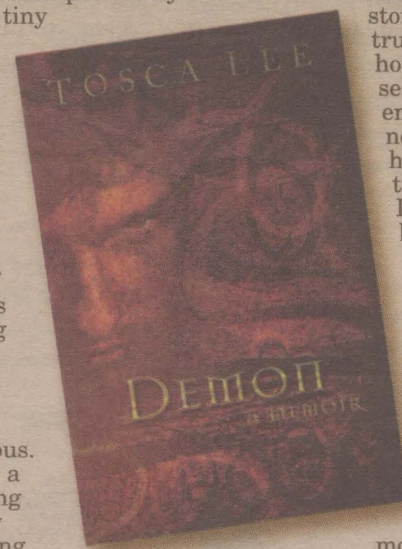
as fiction but...

With most legendary offers from demons and the like, there is a price to pay. The story begins and ends with an offer Clay can't refuse! Lucian (aka the demon), seems like a totally reasonable being, but as the story unravels and the truth about humans and how angels and God himself feels about them emerges, Clay begins to notice things in his life have taken quite a wrong turn. He also notices Lucian does not have his best interest at heart.

Not quite Eve and the apple (Lucian has his own take on that story too), but very similar and very thought provoking! I must admit I was prepared for clichés. Much to my amazement, I was left holding onto one thought: "I want to read more."

The characters and the way this story is spun are brilliant. A unique, modern twist on some old questions. How was earth created? And why?

**Reviewed by Annette Gabriele**, Essex County Library





# Natural Treasures of Essex County

## From Reviled to Revered: The Eastern Fox Snake

By Dan Bissonnette

Right now, as we settle in for the winter, a quiet species is hibernating in hidden spaces in Essex County. It is the Eastern Fox Snake (*Pantherophis gloydi*). One of several snake species found in southern Ontario, it is presently in a dormant state, awaiting the coming warmth of spring.

This species is named for a fox-like musk odour that it sometimes emits when threatened. The Eastern Fox Snake can be distinguished by its yellowish-brown colour and its dark, rounded blotches. They are also significantly larger than most other snakes in our region, with an average adult length of one metre (39 inches). With some specimens growing as large as 1.75 metres (5'8"), they are considered to be the second largest snake species in Ontario.

The global distribution of the Eastern Fox Snake is limited mainly to southern Michigan, northern Ohio and Ontario, with our province comprising about 70 per cent of this species' entire range. Provincially, there are three separate populations, one in Norfolk County, another in Georgian Bay and another found throughout Essex, Kent and Lambton Counties. Here in Essex County, remnant populations have been documented to some degree in every municipality.

These snakes are surprisingly versatile and can be found in grasslands and wetlands, as well as wooded areas. They are admirable swimmers and can

John Brownlie, a senior park interpreter for Point Pelee National Park, handles an Eastern Fox Snake.

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navigate across marshlands and even open water. They are also skilled climbers and occasionally climb trees to bask in the sun or to seek out bird eggs to eat.

Eastern Fox Snakes typically prepare for hibernation in late September. They seek out areas that are sheltered, fairly dry and protected from freezing, such as rocky crevasses or burrows left behind by crayfish and other animals. According to Ph.D. candidate Jeff Row, who has researched Fox Snakes, this species will improvise when hibernating sites are limited.

"Although they may change their hibernation sites from time to time, they usually return to the same sites each year. We have found these snakes hibernating in ditch culverts, underneath abandoned buildings and derelict septic tanks."

Another more unfortunate characteristic of the Eastern Fox Snake is the fact that it is classified as endangered. This species at risk classification denotes those species whose numbers have experienced a significant decline across their range and whose recovery is unlikely without direct intervention.

According to Allen Woodliffe, District Ecologist for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the decline of the Eastern Fox Snake is largely due to the dramatic loss of the varied habitat these creatures need to survive. More recently, other factors have emerged that have further jeopardized this species.

"In recent years the main causes of mortality are due to vehicles, as these snakes cross roads or spend time basking on them, as well as damage to hibernation and egg-laying sites due to development."

Apart from this adversity, the Eastern Fox Snake must contend with yet another threat, that being cultural bias. For a variety of unfounded reasons, snakes are often perceived as dangerous and even evil. All too often, chance meetings between people and snakes leads to an irrational response, resulting in the snake being killed. For an endangered species that already has to endure a variety of threats, cultural bias can present a significant obstacle to this snake's continued existence.

"The impact of cultural bias is huge and, as a result, this species is now listed as endangered," added Woodliffe. "People have less and less contact with the natural world, especially so since the majority now live in urban settings. Hence there is a fear of things they do not understand, especially

those species that don't happen to be warm and fuzzy. If people realized how harmless and even beneficial this species is, I expect people would be more tolerant."

While conducting his research, Jeff Row witnessed firsthand how people's perceptions toward these snakes can have detrimental results.

"Snake deaths due to cultural bias are definitely a problem for this species. They are a protected species and killing them is illegal, but it still occasionally happens. Eastern Fox Snakes will vibrate their tails when they feel threatened and people can mistake them for rattlesnakes, which can exacerbate the problem. In order to preserve this species, we need to educate people and change attitudes."

In contrast to our own cultural views, snakes have been viewed quite differently throughout history. In various cultures, snakes have been revered as guardians of knowledge and symbols of change. For the ancient Greeks, the Rod of Asclepius was depicted as a staff with two snakes entwined around it, which endures to this day as a symbol of healing and medicine. Perhaps it is these associations of knowledge, change and healing that will ultimately improve the prospects of the Eastern Fox Snake.

John Brownlie, a senior park interpreter for Point Pelee National Park, feels that there has been some shift in the public attitude toward these creatures, particularly among the youth.

"Kids love the Fox Snakes. When we have them in our presentations, we see the kids come running forward while their parents are cautiously stepping backwards."

This coming spring, Eastern Fox Snakes across Essex County and elsewhere will emerge from hibernation. How these creatures fair will largely depend on our attitude toward them and our willingness to be proper stewards of our environment.

*Dan Bissonnette is the Program Coordinator for  
The Naturalized Habitat Network.*

*(Photos by Dan Bissonnette & Jeff Row)*



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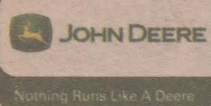


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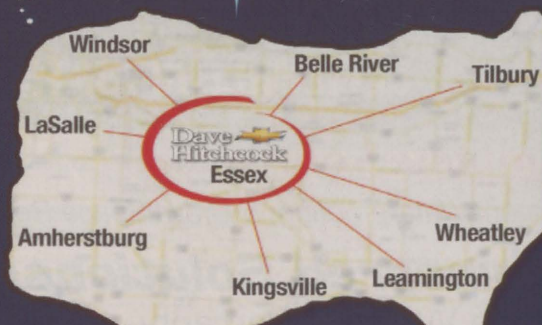


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